

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2014  
WEST HILLS COUNTY PARK  
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton

**ABSENT**

Christopher DiGregorio	Trustee, Town of Southold
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Chris DeLuca	Legislative Aide to Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Lauretta Fischer	Suffolk County Planning
Marisa Schifano	County Attorney's Office

**PUBLIC PORTION**

John Ford was present and requested that additional dog waste bags be made available at Gardiner County Park in West Bay Shore.

Commissioner Dawson stated that Gardiner County Park is not an official county dog park; however dogs are permitted in county parks as long as they are leashed. He said he would look into Mr. Ford's request.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2014**

Page 1 – Public Portion – 1<sup>st</sup> line – **John** Rather was present.....

**A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee Alexander McKay and seconded by Trustee Gilbert Cardillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

## **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & REAL ESTATE**

Watson Avenue Wetlands – Town of Babylon – SCTM #s 0100-211-02-010.002, 020.000, 024.000, 025.000, 031.000 and 032.000 – 6.25 acres

Lauretta Fischer reported that there are six parcels that make up this acquisition under the Old Drinking Water Act as passive parkland. There are approximately two acres adjacent to these parcels that the county already owns so that once this acquisition is made there will be a total of 8 acres county owned. Lauretta added that it is an important acquisition due to the fact that fresh water and tidal wetlands are highly environmentally sensitive parcels and should be protected.

Trustee Gilbert Cardillo made a motion to purchase the Watson Avenue Wetlands parcels and Trustee Alexander McKay seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson reported that Suffolk County beaches are now open for the season and off to a good start. Golf courses had a rough start due to weather conditions but June has picked up and courses are all in good shape.

This Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> is “Discover Suffolk County Parks Day” which will allow non-Green Key cardholders the opportunity to use County Parks at the Green Key cardholder rate. It is hoped that more people will come out and enjoy Suffolk County Parks and purchase Green Key cards for future leisure recreation.

Legislator Schneiderman issued a resolution that would give the County Executive authorization to waive fees at county beaches during periods of extreme hot weather. This did not pass with the Legislature.

The County Executive signed into law (Resolution # 451-2014) the proposal that would authorize the Parks Department to execute an agreement with the Long Island Maritime Museum for the purpose of authorizing the Lt. Michael Murphy Sea Cadet Corps to operate their youth training program on the museum grounds. It also would authorize the Sea Cadets to improve and utilize existing structures on the museum grounds to create public exhibits consistent with maritime and naval history.

The Parks Department received two appropriations from the Capital Budget. One was \$50,000 to be used for Meschutt Beach re-nourishment and the other was for \$250,000 for hazardous waste removal. The department utilizes this account when removing structures on its properties that may have abandoned oil tanks, lead paint and/or asbestos. Two capital appropriation requests were also tabled. One was for \$300,000 for historic buildings and the other was for \$100,000 for planning funds for the newly acquired North Fork Preserve. The Legislature has requested additional information on these projects.

Smith Point's Outer Beach was closed last weekend until further notice due to plover issues. Anyone who wishes to purchase an outer beach pass (\$96 non-refundable fee) must sign a disclaimer stating knowledge that there will be limited beach access over the course of the summer and that there may be additional closures based on storms, erosion and piping plover nesting sites.

The Fired Island Moriches Inlet Project (FIMI) is moving forward and encompasses Smith Point and Cupsogue. After many meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers, Fish & Wildlife, NYSDEC and Fire Island National Seashore to discuss the scope of the project, a positive biological assessment was completed. More sand will be deposited in September to replenish the beach and next year Burma Road should once again provide accessibility to the Inlet from Smith Point.

We are very close to an agreement on the Grace Presbyterian property in Selden (Town of Brookhaven) which has two ball fields on the site. The County is also purchasing another 16 acre parcel on Boyle Road which will be combined with the Grace Presbyterian parcel to create one large complex.

Calverton Civic Association held a meeting to discuss the custodial agreement with ABATE at the Beagle Club. The community expressed their concerns and the ABATE organization decided to withdraw its application. Legislator Krupski announced that he would direct the department to issue a formal Request For Proposals (RFP) seeking to generate interest from some additional groups.

Commissioner Dawson reported that on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm there will be a reception held at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead and treasured artifacts from Sagtikos Manor will be displayed there.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Dawn Hopkins reported that she and Trustee Miles Borden attended the press conference held by Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone and Legislator Jay Schneiderman at West Hills County Park announcing the upcoming "Discover Suffolk County Parks Day".

Chair Hopkins reported that she received a letter from John Rather requesting additional information on the Wetlands Restoration Project under way at Indian Island County Park. She intends to respond to his letter and take his thoughts under advisement. Trustee Sickles felt that Mr. Rather's concern was that it may have been a freshwater wetland at one time and there were intentions of changing it into a saltwater marsh. Trustee Cardillo added that at the current time there is no water flowing through the area. It was also his impression that Mr. Rather was concerned about how much of an effect it would have on the road in the area, people who use the park and how long of a period of time it would take to complete the project. Commissioner Dawson stated that this project will greatly alleviate the current issue of mosquitos infesting the area and that most of the work would be done during the off season to minimize any impact on park users.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Cardillo reported that he ran at Smith Point County Park and the park looked very good. He commented that the new inlet in the FINS Wildlife Area was very large. Commissioner Dawson reported that sound samplings are recorded periodically by the Army Corps to gauge the size and depth. Terry Maccarrone added that The Fire Island National Seashore and the National Park Service want to let nature take its course and let the breach fill in naturally.

Chris DeLuca thanked Commissioner Dawson and reported that he hiked at West Hills County Park a few weeks ago and saw the Jayne's Hill (Long Island's highest peak) site. Commissioner Dawson and Chris agreed that a good Eagle Scout project would be to work with the Long Island Greenbelt Society to update the present signage and trail maps at West Hills County Park.

Trustee Sickles suggested to Chris that Laurel Valley County Park, off Noyac Road and going toward Sag Harbor also has nice hiking trails overlooking the bay.

Trustee Sickles inquired about latest information on the Park Police/Ranger changeover. Commissioner Dawson reported that today was the last day that it could be voted on by the State Legislature. We will know by tomorrow if it has passed.

Trustee Sickles inquired about an article in the Riverhead News Review regarding the proposal for a pedestrian bridge to go across the Peconic River in Riverhead and would go down over to the Riverside area of town. The article stated that the bridge would be part of an existing fourteen acres of county owned open space.

Commissioner Dawson stated that this proposal still needs to go through the Parks Department and all other regulatory agencies before being approved.

Terry Maccarrone reported that there are some grant projects currently being worked on that have been going well. The sprinkler installation at Deepwells is just about completed. The greenhouse renovation at West Sayville is about one-third completed. The electrical improvements for parking lot lighting is about half completed at West Sayville as well.

The next meeting will be held at Van Bourgondien County Park in West Babylon on Thursday, July 17, 2014.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Alexander McKay and was seconded by Trustee Gilbert Cardillo. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**